

REMARKS

Claims 1-47 are pending in the present application. The Official Action rejects Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 11-14, 16-20, 22-29, 32-36, 40-43, and 47 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,134,534 to Walker et al. in view of U.S. Patent Appl. Publ. No. 2002/0100802 to Sehr. The Examiner also rejects Claims 3, 4, 9, 10, 15, 16, 21, 30, 31, 37-39, and 44-46 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker and Sehr and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,281,168 to Coates et al.

Independent Claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 have been amended for clarification and to further distinguish the cited references. Claims 23, 25, 32, 39, and 46 have been amended for consistency. Claims 29, 31, 36, 38, 43, and 45 have been canceled. Claim 26 has been amended to address the Examiner's objection in the Office Action. As explained in further detail below, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are patentable over the cited references and respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Independent Claims 1, 7, 13, and 19

Independent Claim 1 recites a method for sharing customer information among a plurality of electronic storage facilities. The method includes providing a mass data store including, in a first data record, identifying information for a customer having an associated first customer identifier. The method further includes receiving identifying information on the customer from an electronic storage facility containing information about the customer including a second customer identifier that is different from the first customer identifier and storing the received identifying information in a second data record. Furthermore, the method includes determining that the identifying information in the first and second data records are associated with the customer and assigning an identifier for the customer based on a result of the determination. Finally, the method of Claim 1 recites cross-referencing the assigned identifier with the identifying information stored in the first and second data records and providing identifying information using the assigned identifier to an electronic storage facility. Independent Claims 7, 13, and 19 include similar recitations in the context of a computer and systems.

The Examiner finds that Walker discloses assigning an identifier for the customer based on a result of the determination, but acknowledges that Walker does not teach or suggest determining that the information in the first and the second data records are associated with the customer. However, the Examiner relies on Sehr as disclosing determining that the information in the first and the second data records are associated with the customer.

Sehr discloses systems and methods for passport-related applications using passport devices for automatically compiling, issuing, and renewing a portable passport document. The passport devices may be smart cards or portable computers used to store and process data on the passport document, such as a passport card, and may communicate passport information with remote databases. The passport card may include a template for facilitating the compilation and communication of information. For instance, the card may include a cardholder/background field for storing various information relating to the passenger. Information may be input after the card has been issued, and the information may be updated.

Although Applicants disagree with the rejections, independent Claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 have been amended to recite comparing the identifying information in the first and second data records to determine if an identifier is assigned to the customer and assigning an identifier for the customer based on a result of the determination that an identifier is not assigned to the customer. For example, the present application discloses that a CNDA system may compare the standardized customer data with existing customer data in the MDNA index to determine if a CDNA ID exists for the customer and, if not, a CDNA ID may be assigned to the customer (see paragraphs 31-33 and FIG. 3).

In the Office Action, the Examiner contends that Sehr discloses that a determination is made that the first and the second data records are associated with the customer, while Walker discloses assigning an identifier based on the determination. However, Neither Walker nor Sehr teaches or suggests that the first and second data records are compared to determine if an identifier has been assigned for the customer and then assigning an identifier based on the determination that an identifier has not been assigned, as recited by Claims 1, 7, 13, and 19. Rather, Walker only discloses that different identifiers, such as a customer ID or CPO ID, are assigned based on a particular database (i.e., customer ID for the customer database), but the

ID's are not assigned based on any comparison between different data records associated with a customer. Similarly, Sehr only discloses that various information may be stored on a card but does not teach or suggest that any identifiers are assigned based on a comparison between identifying information for the customer.

The Examiner also found that Sehr discloses, in combination with Walker, Claims 29, 36, and 43 (now canceled), which recite that the determining step includes comparing the identifying information in the first and second data records to thereby determine whether the identifying information is for the same customer. In particular, the Examiner relied on portions of Sehr that relate to comparing biometrics information stored on the card to verify that the passenger is the legitimate card holder. Although a comparison may inherently be made when comparing the biometrics information, an identifier is not created for the cardholder based on the comparison. Therefore, neither Walker nor Sehr, taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests independent Claims 1, 7, 13, and 19.

Independent Claims 23 and 25

In the Office Action, the Examiner finds that independent Claims 23 and 25 are essentially the same to independent Claim 19 and are rejected for the same reasons. However, Claims 23 and 25 recite storing in a master data store for each customer a unique identifier identifying the customer and a list of the electronic facilities that contain information for the customer along with the identification for the customer used by each electronic storage facility, which is not recited by Claim 19. See, for example, FIG. 2 of the present application where a CNDA ID, D.S. ID, and Customer ID may be stored in a MDNA index. As indicated above, at most Walker discloses that a specific identifier is created for a particular database, while Sehr only discloses that various information may be stored on a card (e.g., a cardholder's demographics) but does not teach or suggest a unique identifier is stored along with a list of electronic storage facilities containing customer information and associated identifying information. Moreover, Coates discloses storing customer ID's, folder ID's, and metadata in a table, but does not teach or suggest that a unique identifier for a customer is stored that contains a list of electronic storage facilities for the customer in addition to identification for the customer

used by each electronic storage facility, as recited by Claims 23 and 25.

For each of the foregoing reasons, none of the cited references, taken either individually or in combination, teaches or suggests independent Claims 1, 7, 13, 19, 23, and 25. Because the dependent claims depend from and include each of the recitations of a respective independent claim, dependent Claims 2-12, 14-18, 20-22, 24, and 26-47 are allowable for at least the same reasons as described above in conjunction with a respective independent claim.

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Amdt. dated May 23, 2008
Reply to Office Action of March 3, 2008

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks presented above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims of the present application are in condition for immediate allowance. We therefore respectfully request that a Notice of Allowance be issued. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the Applicant's undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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